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03500.017889.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YOSHIKATSU OKADA)
Application No.: 10/770,458)
Filed: February 4, 2004)
For: PROBE MEDIUM AND METHOD)
OF PRODUCING THE SAME : Date: May 25, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed:

- (1) Japan 5192198
- (2) Japan 8023975
- (3) Japan 2794728
- (4) Japan 2000-146971
- (5) U.S. Publication No. 2004/0005620
- (6) U.S. Publication No. 2001/0055762
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 5,741,638
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 6,017,742

Documents (1) and (2) are discussed in the specification at page 2, and documents (3) and (4) at page 3. The Examiner is directed to these portions of the


specification which are believed to provide an explanation of relevance of these documents to the subject application.

In addition, English-language abstracts for cited Japanese documents (1) to (4) are enclosed. Also, documents (6), (7) and (8) are believed to be U.S. counterpart patents and a U.S. counterpart patent application publication of corresponding documents (1), (2) and (4) respectively. The U.S. counterpart patents, U.S. counterpart patent application publication and English-language abstracts are also believed to provide an explanation of relevance of the Japanese documents to the subject application.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 54,334

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
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|--|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE *LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017889. | | APPLICATION NO. 10/770,458 | | |
| <div style="position: relative; height: 100px;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; width: 100%; height: 100%; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; text-align: center; color: black; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> OIP MAY 26 2004 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE </div> </div> | | | APPLICANT <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">YOSHIKATSU OKADA</div> | | | | |
| | | | FILING DATE February 4, 2004 | | GROUP N.Y.A. | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 2004/0005620 | 01/08/04 | Okada, et al. | 435 | 6 | |
| | | 2001/0055762 | 12/27/01 | Suzuki, et al. | 435 | 6 | |
| | | 5,741,638 | 04/21/98 | Yamane | 435 | 6 | |
| | | 6,017,742 | 01/25/00 | Takenishi, et al. | 435 | 180 | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | ✓ | 2000-146971 | 05/26/00 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | ✓ | 5192198 | 08/03/93 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | ✓ | 8023975 | 01/30/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | ✓ | 2794728 | 06/26/98 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1